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LETTER DATED 20 JUNE 1991 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF CUBA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to attach herewith a statement issued by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Cuba on 17 June 1991.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Carlos R. ZAMORA RODRIGUEZ
Alternate Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cuba

On 9 April 1991, a high-ranking State Department officer officially informed the Government of Cuba that the United States of America had evidence that our country was supplying SA-16 portable anti-aircraft rockets to the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional (FMLN). At that time, the Government of the United States of America contended that its allegation was based on reliable intelligence information.

On 11 April, the Government of Cuba, in an official statement to the United States, said that it categorically rejected such accusations. Even at that time, Cuba pointed out to the United States Administration that it was contrary to civilized practice in international relations to place a Government under suspicion without adducing any evidence and that its conduct was unacceptable.

Since that time, the Government of the United States has not produced a shred of evidence to justify its false accusations. In the meantime, Secretary Baker himself and Mr. Aronson have been engaging, through the diplomatic channel, in deliberate and misleading anti-Cuban activity, whose immediate purpose is clearly to challenge the seriousness of the support repeatedly given by the Government of Cuba to efforts for a negotiated solution which would lead, first of all, to an end to the conflict in El Salvador.

The United States authorities have invented and are attempting to convince others of the story that, after the resumption of negotiations early this year between representatives of FMLN and the Government of El Salvador, Cuba has supplied the fighters of the Frente Farabundo Martí with the anti-aircraft rockets mentioned above. At no time either before or after that significant period has the Government of Cuba supplied such weapons to FMLN or anyone else.

With their proverbial cynicism, representatives of the Bush Administration continue to attribute this fabrication to United States intelligence sources which cannot be identified, and, therefore, their allegations are not backed up by facts or evidence which would give them any validity other than the dubious distinction of constituting anti-Cuban rhetoric, which is as flimsy as it is sterile.

It should be recalled that the Government of the United States has absolutely no right and no moral authority either to pass judgement on the foreign policy of Cuba or to analyse the nature of the ties between the Government of Cuba and FMLN, an organization which is recognized by the United Nations as being representative and which enjoys the respect of the international community in general. Cuba does not renounce, nor will it renounce, nor does it have any reason to hide or conceal the profound ties of

fraternity and solidarity which unite our people and the Salvadorian patriots who have waged a heroic struggle against an army that has been armed and trained by the United States.

Although Cuba has made no international commitment and the United States continues to be the logistical support of the armed forces of the Salvadorian regime, the Government of Cuba, in the interest of helping to foster a climate of trust required for negotiations and as an unequivocal gesture of its political will to contribute to that process, has, since then, been demonstrating only political solidarity with FMLN. All parties concerned, including the United States authorities, have been informed of this spontaneous and sovereign attitude which, naturally, does not entail any commitment.

At the very time when Cuba put forward this constructive and logical position which, obviously, enhances its authority with regard to the negotiating process, circles in the Bush Administration, it has been deduced, in conjunction with the CIA, concocted the tall tale about the supply of portable anti-aircraft rockets to FMLN, in a classic disinformation operation in connection with which United States diplomacy knows no scruples and resorts to practices which are unconscionable in international relations, such as accusing a Government on the basis of so-called intelligence sources and, in order to protect those sources, exempting itself from having to furnish any proof.

The truth is that the United States is evading the issue of proof which would back up this charge because there is no such proof. Apparently, despite its experience in undercover operations and psychological warfare, it must require a great effort by the United States to fabricate evidence in this case. It is also obvious that, for the Bush Administration, part of the new international order is the imperial right of the United States to subject a country to pressure and incite others to turn against it through baseless and trumped up accusations.

The Government of Cuba, which has informed the Secretary-General of the United Nations of these incidents, believes that the time has come to make them known to public opinion and the international community, since United States diplomatic representatives in various capitals, including Havana, persist in this deceitful exercise. Cuba does not have to give proof of its seriousness, its devotion to truthfulness or its ability to keep its word. It is the United States Government which has once again been exposed as a gross and bold-faced liar and, above all, as one which is fully aware of what it is doing and does so without the slightest shame or regard for the leaders of those States whom it is attempting to hoodwink and deceive.